

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, in view of the following remarks and above amendments, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-17 are currently pending in the present application. As indicated above, Claims 1, 5-7, 11-12, and 14-15 have been amended. It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner has allowed Claims 14-17, and has found allowable subject matter in Claims 5, 7, and 11-13.

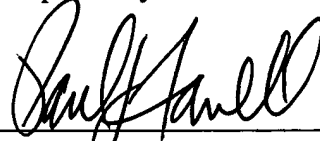
In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected Claims 1 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Thakker* (U.S. 6,487,602 B1), Claims 2, 4, 8, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Thakker* in view of *Fryer* (U.S. 6,233,428 B1), Claims 3 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Thakker* in view of *Lappenbusch et al.* (U.S. 5,982,298).

As indicated above, the Examiner has rejected independent Claims 1 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Thakker*. However, as indicated above, Claims 1 and 6 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter cited by the Examiner, i.e., the recitations of Claims 5 and 7, respectively. Claims 5 and 7 have been amended to depend consistently from amended Claims 1 and 6, respectively.

Additionally, Claims 11, 12, 14, and 15 have also been amended to correct minor informalities.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims, namely Claims 1-17 are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicants' attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul J. Farrell", is written over a horizontal line.

Paul J. Farrell
Reg. No. 33,494
Attorney for Applicant(s)

DILWORTH & BARRESE, LLP
333 Earle Ovington Boulevard
Uniondale, New York 11553
TEL: (516) 228-8484

PJF/DMO/las